

Resource Information for Youth at Risk to Run

PREVENTION TIPS FOR STAFF AND CAREGIVERS



Why youth run

- Want to see friends, boyfriend, girlfriend
- Want to see or be with family
- To take drugs or alcohol
- Do not want to be in care (loss of their family ties)
- No connection to caregiver or program (fear of connecting with others)

What you should do

- Have an open discussion about he or she wanting to run
- Help the youth identify realistic alternatives to running.
- Express your concerns and emphasize their need to be safe if they decide to run.
- Determine with the youth if a behavior support plan needs to be developed.

What information to provide to youth before or if they contact you while they run

- Local phone numbers for:
 - ➔ Crisis Residential Centers
 - ➔ Walk in Centers
 - ➔ Hope Programs
 - ➔ Shelters
- Washington State's Central Intake Hotline: (1-866-363-4276)
- Children of the Night: (1-800-551-1300) Provides 24/7 crisis intervention services, message relay, conference calls, free travel arrangements home or to shelters, translation services and other online resources at www.wsp.wa.gov/crime/mischild.php.
- National Runaway Switchboard: (1-800-786-2929) Provides 24/7 assistance to children between the ages of 11-17 who need or want to be rescued. Children are counseled over the phone until transportation arrives to take them to a safe shelter: www.missingkids.com.
- National Safe Places: If a youth is in crisis and needs immediate assistance, he or she can text for help by texting the word **SAFE** and the current location (**address, city, state**) to **69866**. The texter will receive a message with the closest Safe Place location, youth shelter or the National Runaway Safeline number (1-800-RUNAWAY). Reply with "2CHAT" to text interactively with a mental health professional for more help: <http://nationalsafeplace.org/>.